

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUENOS 01402 251241Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
AID-05 EB-08 TRSE-00 COME-00 OES-07 /083 W
-----040352 260224Z /61

R 242115Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4682
INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO
AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

LIMITEAD OFFICIAL USE BUENOS AIRES 1402

E.O. 11652 N/A
TAGS PBOR, PGOV, AR
SUBJECT PARAGUAYAN FOREIGN MINISTER CONFIRMS EXCELLENT RELATIONS
POSSIBLE ARGENTINE BRAZILIAN TALKS

REF: BRASILIA 1232

1. PARAGUAYAN FOREIGN MINISTER ALBERTO NOGUES,
COMPLETING TWO DAYS OF TALKS IN ARGENTINA
YESTERDAY (FEBRUARY 23), DECLARED THAT ARGENTINE
PARAGUAYAN RELATIONS ARE EXCELLENT AND THAT THERE
IS "ABSOLUTELY NO DISCREPENCY IN THE INTERPRETATION
OF BILATERAL TREATIES OR THE UPCOMING TRILATERAL
TALKS". THE DATE OF THE NEXT TRILATERAL MEETING WILL
BE ANNOUNCED BY PARAGUAY TOMORROW. NOGUES, WHO MADE
A SUDDEN TRIP TO BRASILIA LAST WEEK, CONFIRMED THAT
HIS TALKS HERE CONCERNED: THE HYDROELECTRICAL
DEVELOPMENT OF THE UPPER PARANA RIVER; JURIDICAL
CONSIDERATIONS REGARDING THE CORPUS PROJECT WHICH, HE NOTED,
WAS STILL IN THE PLANNING STAGES; AND THE HEIGHT COMPATIBILITY
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PAGE 02 BUENOS 01402 251241Z

OF THE CORPUS AND ITAIPU DAM PROJECTS.

2. THE LOCAL PRESS TODAY REPORTED BRAZILS APPARENT WILLINGNESS
TO HOLD BILATERAL TALKS WITH ARGENTINA IN AN EFFORT TO DEVELOP
A BILATERAL SOLUTION TO THE COUNTRIES DIFFERENCES OVER
HYDROELECTRIC DEVELOPMENT ON THE PARANA. ACCORDING TO AN
ARTICLE IN THE BRAZILIAN JOURNAL DO BRASIL REPORTED HERE,

PRESIDENT GEISEL AND BRAZILIAN FOREIGN MINISTER AZERDEO DA SILVEIRA ARE READY TO DONDUCT BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS THROUGH THE ARGENTINE EMBASSY IN BRASILIA. THE ARGENTINE FOREIGN MINISTRY SAID YESTERDAY THAT IT HAS RECEIVED NO PROPOSAL REGARDING BILATERAL TALKS WITH BRAZIL.

3. ARGENTINA, CONSUMED WITH ITS BEAGLE CHANNEL DISPUTE WITH CHILE, WAS FLEETINGLY DISMAYED BY THE SUDDEN AND UNEXPECTED NOGUES VISIT TO BRASILIA AND HINTS THAT THE TRILATERAL TALKS ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED FOR THIS MONTH MIGHT BE POSTPONED TO ARGENTINAS DISADVANTAGE BY SOME OFF STAGE MUTUAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN BRAZIL AND PARAGUAY. AT PRESENT, HOWEVER, ARGENTINA IS CLEARLY RELIEVED TO HAVE RELATIONS WITH NEIGHBORING BRAZIL AND PARAGUAY SATISFACTORILY QUIESCENT AND IS LIKELY TO TRY TO AVOID A REPEAT OF LAST YEARS OUTBURSTS OF RHETORICAL COMPLAINTS AS LONG AS ARGENTINAS INTERESTS IN ITS NORTHERN BORDER CAN BE KEPT ON THE NEGOTIATING TABLE.
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